



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 26 2016

OFFICE OF  
WATER

Mr. Jeff Faloba  
Patriot Water Treatment LLC  
2840 Sferra Ave  
Warren, Ohio 44483

Dear Mr. Faloba:

Under the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency establishes national regulations, called "effluent limitations guidelines" and "pretreatment standards" (ELGs) to reduce discharges of pollutants from industries to surface waters and publicly owned treatment works. Section 304(m) of the CWA requires the EPA to publish an Effluent Guidelines Program Plan every other year. The Plan presents the schedule for ongoing ELG rulemakings and presents the results of the annual review of ELGs. The purpose of the annual reviews are to help the EPA to determine whether to revise or establish effluent guidelines or pretreatment standards for candidate industries (see <http://www.epa.gov/eg/effluent-guidelines-plan>).

In the Final 2014 Effluent Guidelines Program Plan, published in the Federal Register in August 4, 2015 (80 FR 46280), the EPA identified Centralized Waste Treatment (40 CFR part 437) as an industrial category for a study in its 2014 review. The study is focused on facilities that accept oil and gas extraction wastewaters. The purpose of this study is to determine whether the EPA should identify the CWT industry for possible revision of its existing effluent guidelines.

As part of this study of CWT facilities, the EPA is soliciting data and information related to the extent to which CWT facilities accept oil and gas extraction wastewater, available treatment technologies (and their associated costs), discharge characteristics, financial characteristics of CWT facilities, the environmental impacts of discharges from CWT facilities, as well as any other information believed to be relevant to the EPA's study of this issue.

As you know, the EPA conducted a site visit to the Patriot Water Treatment Facility on October 28, 2014. The EPA requires additional information about the facility. The EPA has prepared a questionnaire (enclosed) indicating the required information. ***Under the authority of Section 308 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1318), response to this questionnaire is mandatory.*** The EPA will work with you to help you complete your responses in order to reduce the associated burden. We expect you (or your designated agent) to provide your completed response to the enclosed questionnaire **no later than 45 days after your receipt of this letter.**

The following provides an overview of the EPA's requests/questions related to the study.



### ***Financial Information***

- General contact information
- Business information of Patriot company
- Business model of the Patriot Facility and its ownership
- Operational and financial decision-making and capital financing
- Financial information
- Information on the facility's customer base, typical terms of business, and market

### ***Engineering Information***

- Types and volumes of wastes
- Treatment system information (e.g., volumes of units, residuals generated, capital costs)
- Information about pits/ponds/lagoons
- Historic treatment system construction and planned upgrades
- Nearby land availability

The EPA has provided these questionnaires and other items as seven enclosures to this letter, all of which are included on the enclosed USB drive:

- **Enclosure 1** is an explanation of the statutory authority for requiring the completion of the questionnaire, an explanation of your legal rights to protection of Confidential Business Information (CBI), and a notice of the EPA's intention to allow selected contractors access to all information that you submit in response to the questionnaire or follow-up requests, including information that you declare as CBI. The EPA will provide this information to the EPA contractors in order that the contractors may carry out the work required by their contracts with the EPA. As noted in Enclosure 1, if you wish to comment on the EPA's intent to release the CBI to its contractors, any such comment must be received in writing by the EPA within 10 days of your receipt of this notice. Send these comments to the address listed in this enclosure.
- **Enclosure 2** is a certification statement, which an authorized person within your business must sign and return to the EPA. You should return the certification statement with an original signature to the EPA with the completed questionnaires.
- **Enclosure 3** is the financial/economics information questionnaire as a fillable PDF.
- **Enclosure 4** is a schematic of the facility's treatment unit based on what we saw and learned during our previous visit to your facility. Provide any comments or changes as you see fit.
- **Enclosure 5** is the engineering information questionnaire as a fillable PDF.
- **Enclosure 6** is instructions for downloading Adobe Reader (free, available software) in order to use enclosure 3 and 5.



- **Enclosure 7** is the final site visit report from October, 2014, which incorporates your comments from the draft site visit report.

To reduce the burden associated with responding to the questionnaires, the EPA has pre-populated certain questions with information that you provided on the site visit (enclosure 7). If you would like to change this information, select the correct answer instead of the pre-populated answer. The EPA requests that you respond to the questionnaires directly in the fillable PDFs, and return the completed questionnaires to the EPA using the USB drive included with this letter. You will need to use Adobe Reader (which is free, easily available software) to provide your responses in the fillable PDF. Enclosure 6 provides instructions for downloading Adobe Reader, if needed. If you prefer to respond to the questionnaires as a written physical document, please contact the EPA at 877-344-9540 or [CWT\\_questionnaire@abtassoc.com](mailto:CWT_questionnaire@abtassoc.com) to request a paper copy of the questionnaires.

In addition, please attach, in electronic (as a Microsoft Excel, PDF or Microsoft Word file) or hard copy form, all monitoring data that has been collected at the facility during calendar year 2015 regarding

1. Untreated oil and gas wastewater characterization
2. Untreated industrial (other than oil and gas) wastewater characterization
3. All treated wastewater discharged from the facility to the POTW (Warren wastewater treatment plant).

In your response to the questionnaires, you may designate certain information for protection as Confidential Business Information. Any information in your response that you do not claim as CBI may be made available to the public without further notice. Details for claiming information as CBI are provided in the EPA's regulations regarding confidential information (40 CFR Part 2, Subpart B). Enclosure 1 provides a review of these regulations.

We will contact you within a week of your receipt of this material to schedule an initial phone call to review the questionnaires with you and to clarify any questions that you may have on the questionnaires or the CWT study process. Please send your completed questionnaire response (enclosures 3, 4, and 5) and a copy of the specified monitoring data using the USB drive, along with the signed certification statement (enclosure 2) using the enclosed return envelope to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
CWT Industry Data Gathering  
c/o Abt Associates Inc.  
55 Wheeler Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138

If you have any questions regarding the applicability of the questionnaire or any questions of a technical or economic nature regarding this request for information, please email the questionnaire help line at [CWT\\_questionnaire@abtassoc.com](mailto:CWT_questionnaire@abtassoc.com) or call 877-344-9540. The help-line will also be able to assist you if you need another copy of the questionnaire. For other questions, such as those related to policy issues, please contact the CWT study project lead, Jesse

Pritts, at [pritts.jesse@epa.gov](mailto:pritts.jesse@epa.gov) or (202) 566-1038 or the economist on the CWT study team, Karen Milam, at [milam.karen@epa.gov](mailto:milam.karen@epa.gov) or (202) 566-1915.

The EPA appreciates your cooperation in completing this questionnaire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert K. Wood", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert K. Wood, Director  
Engineering & Analysis Division

Enclosures

